Amendments in the Wakf Act

1252. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering large scale amendments in the Wakf Act in view of the deficiencies detected in the functioning of the Act;

(b) whether Government have received any representations in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the amendments will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Amendment of the Wakf Act, 1995 is under consideration.

Identifications of castes under minority community in reservation list

†1253. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sachchar Committee has identified castes under minority community to be included in reservation list;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (c) No, Sir. It was not included in its terms of reference.

(b) The report does refer to three groups of Muslims in India in terms of their social structure and suggests that the third group 'arzals' could be designated as Most Backward Classes (MBCs) as they need multifarious measures, including reservation, as they are 'Comulatively oppressed'

Grant for affiliation of minority educational institutions

1254. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "National Commission for Minority Educational

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Institution" to grant direct affiliation of minority educational institutes to a scheduled university has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed University to which the minority educational institutions are to be affiliated has been set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Government of India has set up a National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) through an Act of Parliament. As per Section 10A of the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 (as amended) a minority educational institution may seek affiliation to any University of its choice subject to such affiliation being permissible under the relevant Act of the University. There is at present no proposal to set up any university for affiliating minority educational institutions.

Property of Wakf Board

†1255. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of land of Wakf Board in the country;

(b) the total area of land under Government's possession and whether Board is getting its benefit;

(c) the action being taken against the persons who are in illegal possession of Wakf property; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme for making economic zone for Wakf's property?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) As per available reports, the details of wakfs registered with State Wakf Boards are given in the Statement (*see below*).

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) Action for removal of encroachments is to be taken by the State Wakf Boards/State Governments, in accordance with the provisions of the Wakf Act, 1995. The Central Government has, from time to time, impressed

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.